



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 23 2006

OFFICE OF  
CIVIL RIGHTS

**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**Cert. No. 7004-1160-0004-8430-9739**

**In Reply Refer to:**

**EPA File No. 16R-05-R9**

[REDACTED]  
Community First Coalition  
1022 Plymouth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115

**Re: ACCEPTANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT**

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is to notify the Community First Coalition (CFC) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is accepting the September 8, 2005, administrative complaint filed by [REDACTED]. The complaint alleges that CFC violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, and EPA's regulations implementing Title VI, found at 40 C.F.R. Part 7.

Under Title VI, a recipient of Federal financial assistance may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulations, OCR conducts a preliminary review to determine acceptance, rejection, or referral. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(1). To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. First, the complaint must be in writing. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, it must describe alleged discriminatory acts that may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulations (*i.e.*, an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, or national origin). 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Third, it must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2). Fourth, it must be filed against an applicant for, or a recipient of, EPA financial assistance that committed the alleged discriminatory act. 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.

OCR is accepting the following allegation for investigation: CFC intentionally discriminated against [REDACTED] by terminating its contract with Environmental Mitigation Unlimited (EMU) because one of EMU's owner's [REDACTED] is Caucasian.

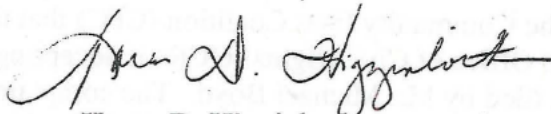
This allegation is accepted for investigation since it meets EPA's four jurisdictional requirements. First, the complaint is in writing. Second, the complaint states an alleged discriminatory act that may violate Title VI (discrimination based on race). Third, the complaint was filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act (July 5, 2005). Fourth, CFC is a recipient of EPA federal financial assistance.

Pursuant to EPA's Title VI regulations, CFC may either respond to the complaint in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving this letter, or wait until OCR notifies CFC of any preliminary findings of noncompliance. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(1)(iii).

EPA's Title VI regulations also provide that OCR must attempt to resolve complaints informally whenever possible. 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(2). Accordingly, OCR may discuss offers to informally resolve the complaint, and may, to the extent appropriate, facilitate an informal resolution process with the involvement of affected stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Walker of OCR's External Compliance Program by telephone at (202) 343-9680, by e-mail at [walker.tom@epa.gov](mailto:walker.tom@epa.gov), or by mail to the U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Higginbotham  
Director

cc:



Jo Ann Asami, Title VI Coordinator  
EPA Region 9

Jackie Lane, Grant Project Office  
U.S. Region 9 (SFD-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Stephen G. Pressman, Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights Law Office (MC 2399A)